

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TURKISH REACTION TO CARTER SFRC STATEMENT AND THE
APPOINTMENT OF VANCE AS SECRETARY OF STATE

1. THE RELEASE OF THE TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER'S MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (SFRC) AND THE DESIGNATION OF CYRUS VANCE AS SECRETARY OF STATE BOTH OCCURRED DURING AN EXTENDED HOLIDAY PERIOD IN TURKEY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION PUT OUT BY THE LOCAL JOURNALISTS' SOCIETIES IN MAJOR CITIES, NORMAL NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION WAS SUSPENDED. FOR THIS REASON, TURKISH REACTION TO THE CARTER STATEMENT AND THE VANCE APPOINTMENT WERE RATHER MUTED ALTHOUGH THE SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITIONS DID REPORT BOTH STORIES.

2. THE RESUMPTION OF NORMAL PUBLICATION DEC. 6 HAS RESULTED IN MORE COVERAGE AND COMMENT, ALTHOUGH EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORTS STILL DOMINATE THE TURKISH PRESS. THE INDICATION BY CARTER THAT HE WOULD BE OBJECTIVE IN HIS DEALINGS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN EDITORIAL IN CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN DEC. 6. THE EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD IN THE UNITED STATES IT WAS NATURAL FOR A CANDIDATE TO SEEK VOTES AMONG MINORITY GROUPS, BUT NOW THAT HE HAS BECOME
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PRESIDENT-ELECT, CARTER HAS BECOME MORE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED FOR A BALANCED APPROACH AND IN TERCUMAN'S WORDS, "HE HAS BEGUN TO SEE REALITY." THE SPECIAL HOLIDAY EDITION DEC. 5 AND MOST NEWSPAPERS DEC. 6 REPORT THAT THE GREEKS HAVE REACTED NEGATIVELY TO CARTER'S PROMISES OF OBJECTIVITY.

3. THE DESIGNATION OF CYRUS VANCE AS CARTER'S SECRETARY OF STATE HAS RECEIVED GENERALLY MODEST BUT POSITIVE PRESS COVERAGE IN TURKEY. LIBERAL MILLIYET, IN A FRONT PAGE STORY, STATES THAT BOTH CARTER'S STATEMENT AND HIS APPOINTMENT OF VANCE WERE GREETED WITH PLEASURE IN TURKISH DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES. THE STORY ALSO NOTES THAT THE VANCE APPOINTMENT, TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE TEXT OF THE CARTER MEETING WITH THE SFRC, HAS CREATED FEELINGS OF CONCERN AMONG POLITICAL CIRCLES IN ATHENS AND NICOSIA.

4. MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET AND SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN ALSO KEY THEIR COVERAGE OF THE VANCE APPOINTMENT TO HIS ROLE AS MEDIATOR IN THE 1967 CYPRUS CRISIS. THE HURRIYET STORY IS ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH OF VANCE WITH FOMIN CAGLAYANGIL WHO WAS ALSO FOMIN AT THAT TIME. VANCE IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN "AS SUCCESSFUL AS KISSINGER" IN THE 1967 MEDIATION EFFORT. HURRIYET ALSO MAKES THE POINT THAT IN CONTRAST WITH THE "ANTI-TURKISH ATTITUDE" DISPLAYED BY FELLOW MEDIATOR GEORGE BALL DURING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS A YEAR AND A HALF AGO CONCERNING CYPRUS AND THE EMBARGO, SECRETARY-DESIGNATE VANCE HAD TAKEN A MORE REALISTIC AND OBJECTIVE APPROACH. GUNAYDIN, IN CONTRAST WITH THE MILLIYET STORY, QUOTES MAKARIOS AS SAYING THAT HE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE VANCE APPOINTMENT.

5. COMMENT: THE RELEASE OF THE TEXT OF CARTER'S MEETING WITH THE SFRC HAS, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT, IMPROVED THE U.S. POSITION IN TURKEY. SINCE THE ELECTION, MOST TURKS HAVE BEEN UNEASY ABOUT REPORTED PRE-ELECTION STATEMENTS INDICATING A CARTER BIAS TOWARD GREECE. SENIOR GOV. OFFICIALS WERE AWARE THAT U.S. POLICIES WERE BASED ON PERCEIVED U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS AND THAT THE PERCEPTION OF THOSE INTERESTS WOULD NOT CHANGE DRAMATICALLY WITH THE CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THEIR NATIONAL SENSE OF INSECURITY, WHICH HAD BEEN HEIGHTENED BY THE U.S. ARMS EMBARGO, THEY COULD NOT ENTIRELY SHAKE THE FEELING THAT GREEK JUBILATION MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED. THE PUBLICATION
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OF THE CONFIRMATION THAT THE PRESIDENT-ELECT IS AWARE OF THE NEED TO BE OBJECTIVE HAS IN LARGE MEASURE EASED THAT CONCERN. THIS POSITIVE TURN IN TURKISH ATTITUDES TO THE U.S. WAS FORTIFIED BY THE APPOINTMENT OF CYRUS VANCE AS SECRETARY OF STATE-DESIGNATE. VANCE IS WELL AND FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THE TURKS AND FIRST REACTIONS IN THE PRESS SUGGEST HIS APPOINTMENT WILL BE INTERPRETED BY THEM AS A WELCOME INDICATION THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION

DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY RADICAL CHANGES IN ITS POLICIES TOWARD
TURKEY.
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